

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:
- a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;
- a second frame having two extension members, each extension member slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member having at least one guide device and being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;
- a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having at least one arm, the at least one arm having at least one guide device, the carriage movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position; and
- a transport support having at least one track, the at least one track slidably borne by the at least one guide device of the carriage, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position and positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one guide device of each extension member when the transport support is in the retracted position.
2. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.
3. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an actuator actuating mechanism coupled to the second frame and the carriage, the actuating mechanism operable to pivot the carriage.

4. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuator actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

5. (Previously Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:

a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members; a second frame having two extension members, each extension member including at least one roller slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having two parallel side arms, each side arm having at least one roller;

a transport support having two tracks, each track slidably borne by the at least one roller of one of the two parallel side arms, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position; and

an actuator actuating mechanism coupled to the second frame and the carriage, the actuator actuating mechanism operable to move the transport support between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.

7. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuator actuating mechanism is an electric actuator.

8. (Currently Amended) A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:

a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members; a second frame having two extension members, each extension member including at least one roller slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

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a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having two parallel side arms, each side arm having at least one roller;

a transport support having two tracks, each track slidably borne by the at least one roller of one of the two parallel side arms, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position; and

a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position and move the transport support between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of loading and unloading cargo into and from a transporting accessory for a vehicle, the method comprising:

mounting a base frame of the transporting accessory to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

positioning the cargo into a transport support of the transporting accessory;

activating a drive assembly a first time to move two extension members of a second frame of the transporting accessory along a telescoping path of travel with respect to the base frame between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

activating an actuator actuating mechanism a first time to pivot a carriage and to move a transport support along a transport support path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position, the actuator actuating mechanism being coupled to the second frame and the carriage, the carriage being pivotally mounted to the second frame;

activating the actuator actuating mechanism a second time to pivot the carriage to cause the transport support to move along the transport support path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position; and

activating the drive assembly a second time to move the two extension members along the telescoping path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position.

10. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base frame includes at least one side beam, the side beam having at least one aperture therein for mounting the base frame to the vehicle by inserting fasteners into the at least one aperture.

11. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base frame includes at least one tube member, the at least one tube member being telescopically borne by the base frame, such that the at least one tube member telescopes from the base frame to adjust a width of the base frame.

12. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position and to move the transport support between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.

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13. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 12, wherein the drive assembly includes a winch, the winch including a drum that is operable to rotate in both clockwise and counter clockwise directions to wind a cable thereon, the cable having a first end mounted to the drum and a second end mounted to the transport support.

14. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transport support includes at least one roller pivotally mounted to the transport support, the at least one roller positioned such that it contacts a ground surface when the transport support is in the extended position.

15. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second frame is swivelly mounted to the base frame.

16. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 2, wherein the drive assembly includes a motor operable to rotate a drive shaft in both clockwise and counter clockwise directions, the drive shaft being axially interconnected to at least one drive gear that rotates clockwise and counter clockwise with the drive shaft, at least one drive chain being interconnected to the at least one drive gear, the at least one drive chain rotates clockwise and counter clockwise with the at least one drive gear.

17. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 16, wherein the second frame is interconnected to the at least one drive chain.

18. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuator actuating mechanism is manually operated and controls a rate at which the carriage pivots.

19. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the base frame includes at least one side beam, the side beam having at least one aperture therein for mounting the base frame to the vehicle by inserting fasteners into the at least one aperture.

20. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the carriage is movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position.

21. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the transport support is positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one roller of each side arm when the transport support is in the retracted position.

22. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the drive assembly includes a motor operable to rotate a drive shaft in both clockwise and counter clockwise directions, the drive shaft being axially interconnected to at least one drive gear that rotates clockwise and counter clockwise with the drive shaft, at least one drive chain being interconnected to the at least one drive gear, the at least one drive chain rotates clockwise and counter clockwise with the at least one drive gear.

23. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 22, wherein the second frame is interconnected to the at least one drive chain.

24. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the base frame includes at least one side beam, the side beam having at least one aperture therein for mounting the base frame to the vehicle by inserting fasteners into the at least one aperture.

25. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the carriage is movable between a first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position.

26. (Previously Added) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the transport support is positioned such that the transport support contacts at least one roller of each side arm when the transport support is in the retracted position.

27. (Currently Amended) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 8, wherein the drive assembly includes a winch, the winch includes a drum that is operable to rotate in both clockwise and counterclockwise directions to wind a cable thereon, the cable having a first end mounted to the drum and a second end mounted to the transport support.

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29. (New) A transport accessory for a vehicle and operable to transport cargo, the transport accessory comprising:
- a base frame mountable to the vehicle;
 - a second frame slidably interconnected to the base frame and slidable with respect to the base frame between a retracted position, in which the second frame is substantially nested with the base frame, and an extended position, in which the second frame is telescopically extended from the base frame;
 - a carriage pivotally interconnected to the second frame and pivotal between a substantially horizontal position and an inclined position;
 - a transport support slidably interconnected to the carriage and operable to support the cargo, the transport support movable between a retracted position, in which the transport support is positioned substantially over the carriage, and an extended position, in which the transport platform is telescopically extended from the carriage; and
 - a drive operable to facilitate movement of the transport assembly between a transport condition, in which the second frame is in the retracted position, the carriage is in the substantially horizontal position and the transport support is in the retracted position, and a non-transport condition, in which the second frame is in the extended position, the carriage is in the inclined position and the transport support is in the extended position, the cargo being loadable and unloadable from the transport support when the transport assembly is in the non-transport condition.

30. (New) The transport accessory as claimed in claim 29, wherein the base frame includes two support members and the second frame includes two extension members, wherein each extension member is slidably borne by a respective one of the support members and includes at least one guide.

31. (New) The transport accessory as claimed in claim 30, wherein the transport support contacts at least one guide of each extension member when the transport support is in the retracted position.

32. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 29, wherein the base frame includes at least one side beam, the side beam having at least one aperture therein for mounting the base frame to the vehicle by inserting fasteners into the at least one aperture.

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33. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 29, wherein the base frame includes at least one tube, the at least one tube being telescopically borne by the base frame, such that the at least one tube telescopes from the base frame to adjust a width of the base frame.

34. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 29, wherein the drive includes a winch, the winch including a drum that is operable to rotate in both clockwise and counter clockwise directions to wind a cable thereon, the cable having a first end mounted to the drum and a second end mounted to the transport support.

35. (New) The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 29, wherein the transport support includes at least one roller pivotally mounted thereto, the at least one roller positioned such that it contacts a ground surface when the transport support is in the extended position.

36. (New) A method of loading a transport accessory for a vehicle, the method comprising:

mounting a base frame of the transport accessory to the vehicle;
activating a drive a first time to facilitate movement of a second frame from a retracted position, in which the second frame is substantially nested with the base frame, to an extended position, in which the second frame is telescopically extended from the base frame, facilitate rotation of a carriage from a substantially horizontal position to an inclined position, and facilitate movement of a transport support from a retracted position, in which the transport support is positioned substantially over the carriage, and an extended position, in which the transport support is telescopically extended from the carriage;

loading cargo onto the transport support; and

activating the drive a second time to move the transport support from the extended position to the retracted position, rotate the carriage from the inclined position to the substantially horizontal position, and move the second frame from the extended position to the retracted position.

37. (New) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the base frame includes two support members and the second frame includes two extension members, each extension member being slidably borne by a respective one of the support members and including at least one guide.

38. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the transport support contacts at least one guide of each extension member when the transport support is in the retracted position.

39. (New) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the drive includes a winch, the winch including a drum that is operable to rotate in both clockwise and counter-clockwise directions to wind a cable thereon, the cable having a first end mounted to the drum and a second end mounted to the transport support.

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40. (New) The method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the transport support includes at least one roller pivotally mounted thereto, the at least one roller positioned such that it contacts a ground surface when the transport support is in the extended position.
